

MENNONITE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

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S. E. Allgyer, A Short Biography

JOHN UMBLE

Samuel Evans Allgyer, widely known as an evangelist in the Mennonite Church for forty years following his first evangelistic efforts in the West in 1906, died quietly at his home near West Liberty, Ohio, on November 15, 1953. He was the son of Joseph and Barbara (Zook) Allgyer and was born near McVeytown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania, on March 8, 1859. His parents moved to Wayne County, Ohio, in 1874 and the next year moved again to a farm three miles southeast of West Liberty, Ohio. They were members of the Amish Mennonite Church with which he also united at the age of sixteen. He attended the public schools in Pennsylvania and Ohio from 1865 to 1877 and the Smithville, Ohio, Normal School in 1875.

On January 18, 1883, he was united in marriage with Priscilla A. Umble, daughter of Jacob and Barbara (Kurtz) Umble, of Gap, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. From his marriage in 1883 to 1912 he was a farmer, at first renting and later purchasing his father's farm. In the latter year he retired and turned the farm over to his sons-in-law in order to devote all his time to the work of the church.

He had tremendous energy and was always on time with his farm work. Seed-time and harvest never found him behindhand. His stock was always well fed, well cared for, his horses sleek and well groomed. But he never allowed his farm work to keep him from a weekday meeting at the church and during the busy summer season he quit work early to attend the Saturday evening "Bible Class" where a group of Sunday-school workers met to study the next day's lesson. He operated a threshing rig in co-operation with a neighbor, making many friends with his efficient management of the separator and his reputation for fair dealing. He placed a high value on the good opinion of his neighbors and friends.

As a young man he served as librarian, then secretary of the Amish Mennonite (German) Sunday school in Champaign County, Ohio, and later served as superintendent until two years after his ordination to the ministry in 1905. He became

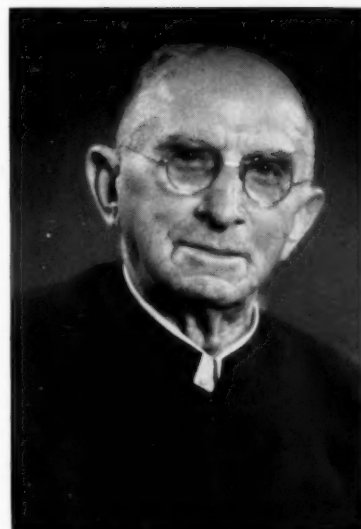
deeply interested in the Ohio Sunday School Conference soon after its organization and took an active part in the annual meeting of the conference. He was one of the moving spirits in the organization of the Logan-Champaign Annual Sunday School Union and the Quarterly Mission Meeting, also the Saturday evening Bible Class for study of the next day's Sunday-school lesson.

In the early nineties during a revival at the Mt. Tabor M.E. Church near his home he became convinced that his formal connection with the church was not sufficient. As a result of Bible study and prayer he and his companion were converted in their home during the time that the revival meetings were in progress at the church. Although he had previously been a consistent church member, this was a turning point in his religious life and service.

After his ordination to the ministry Allgyer devoted himself more and more to the work of the church and spent weeks and even months away from home conducting Bible conferences and evangelistic services (continued meetings). He was interested especially in building up the mission stations east and west and as a result of his country-wide service became one of the most widely known evangelists in the church.

Partly as a result of some of his early successful evangelistic efforts he was elected the first field worker of the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities in 1908, and continued in this position until 1940. In 1908 he was ordained bishop of the Oak Grove Church in Champaign County, Ohio, and served as bishop of seven Western Ohio churches and one in Pennsylvania. He served seven different terms as moderator of the Ohio Mennonite and Eastern A.M. Conference and was moderator of the Mennonite General Conference in 1931.

In 1919 the Mennonite Church sent him to Europe as a special delegate to visit the young men engaged in relief work under the Friends' Service Committee. He derived much satisfaction from his service in two other areas. He was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Children's Home at West Liberty in 1900



Samuel Evans Allgyer
1859—1953

and served on the Board for forty-six years. Then after the Old People's Home near Rittman, Ohio, was destroyed by fire in 1919 and seemed likely not to be rebuilt, he, almost singlehanded, raised the money by personal visits from congregation to congregation and from house to house. It was dedicated in 1939 after the first floor was finished. The real need for the building is attested by the waiting list.

In his work in the church he ordained thirty-eight men—eight bishops, twenty ministers, and ten deacons; he preached three hundred and fifteen funeral sermons, married one hundred and four couples, preached four thousand sermons, crossed the Allegheny Mountains three hundred times, made four trips to the West Coast. He served as bishop of eight congregations. At four of these he ordained bishops and in 1951 resigned all of his bishop responsibilities on account of his age. The first summer after his ordination to the ministry he attended his first church conference, the Ohio and Eastern A.M. The same year he attended General Conference in Canada. He never missed either of these conferences during the next forty-three years.

S. E. Allgyer and his wife were the parents of eight children: Eva Mae (Mrs. N. E. Troyer, deceased 1950), Barbara

Ellen (Mrs. Earl M. Yoder, d. 1934), Maud Umble (Mrs. Dan C. Yoder, d. 1929), Jacob Roy, Anna Mary (Mrs. A. Ray Eschliman), Ruth Edna (Mrs. J. G. Baumgartner), Samuel Maurice, and John Mark. There are twenty-three grandchildren and thirty-nine great-grandchildren.

After the death of his companion in 1946, he continued his active interest in church affairs and continued to reside in the home that they had built in 1912. Occasionally he made his home with one or another of his children for a brief period, but he always came back "home" to West Liberty. During the closing years of his

life his daughter Anna Mary and her husband moved from Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to the ancestral home and kept house for him. He did much reading and writing and wrote a letter to his children every week.

The "S. E. Allgyer Memorial Library Fund" has been established for the purpose of providing books for the libraries at the Oak Grove Mennonite Church and the Mennonite Orphans' Home at West Liberty, Ohio, and the large-type New Testaments for the Mennonite Old People's Home at Rittman, Ohio.

Goshen, Indiana.

Kansas-Nebraska Mennonite Conference (1879-1920)

HARRY A. DIENER

As early as 1871 a few Mennonites had settled in central Kansas. In 1872 several families settled in Marion and eastern McPherson Counties; they were served communion by Bishop Henry Yother of Blue Springs, Nebr., in December 1872. Within the next few years Mennonite settlements were also started in Adams Co., Nebr., and Osborne, Ness, Harvey, and western McPherson Counties, Kansas. In April 1876 a church was built on the land of Bishop Daniel Brundage, known as the Spring Valley Mennonite Church, located near Canton, Kans. Brother Brundage had homesteaded a 160-acre farm in 1875.

The conference met in the forenoon of April 14, 1876, in this church. Bishop Brundage read Isa. 28:16 and I Tim. 3, which he followed with admonitions. By the afternoon Bishop Yother from Nebraska had arrived and took part in the conference. Besides the bishops, Yother and Brundage, two ministers, one deacon and an assembly layman attended the conference. Singing and Scripture reading were in both English and German. Six resolutions were discussed and approved as follows: (1) Members should not seek protection in lightning rods; (2) Members should take no part in worldly insurance; (3) It was considered inconsistent with nonresistant doctrine to go to the polls to vote. (4) It was not considered advisable for brethren to hold the office of Road Overseer; (5) Attendance at worldly amusements is not in accordance with the Word of God; and (6) Brethren moving in from abroad should bring a church letter.

It was decided that conference should meet again on the fourth Friday of April 1877 at the same place.

Bro. Brundage was for fifteen or more years very active in encouraging and organizing the Mennonite settlers who came to Kansas. R. J. Heatwole, a layman who

settled in Kansas in the early years, served as secretary of the first conference and a number of later sessions. He also was elected and served as moderator of a number of sessions. For many years his helpful influence was felt as a promoter of Sunday schools, evangelistic meetings, congregational singing, and mission work.

From 1879 to 1890 the conference met for both a spring and fall session; the spring sessions were usually held in one of the churches in central Kansas and the fall session in either Osborne Co., Kans., or Adams Co., Nebr. From 1892 on there was only an annual session of conference which was usually held in the month of October. Friday was usually the day for conference with a meeting in the evening. Frequently on Saturday forenoon there was a preparatory service and then communion service on Sunday forenoon. Many of the conference attendants would stay for the communion service.

Among the resolutions adopted were the following:

"Resolved, That we be submissive to the law of Kansas, requiring each person belonging to a church opposed to bearing arms, to give his name before the first of May in each year, that the authorities may know, when soldiers are needed who has belonged to a nonresistant association, and thereby favor us so that we may be undisturbed." 1887 conference, page 16 (8).

"That our ministers should not misuse the time in church by preaching too long so as to weary the patience of the hearers." Conference 1889, page 25 (4).

"Resolved that it is not wrong to sing more than one part music, for the reason that our Creator has seen fit to give a variety of voices." Conference 1890, page 32.

"Are all the churches supplied with ministers as they should be, and if not, is it advisable to have them supplied?" Answer, "Bishops should see that ministers

are ordained wherever it is desired." Conference 1890, page 33 (9).

Question "Is it right for a brother to receive pension for service in the war?" "Resolved that it is right to receive pension." Since a soldier who had become a brother would not be required to give up his home (160 acres of land) which he had received from the government there was little right to deprive him of his pension. Conference 1890, page 32.

Question "Is it advisable to send out and support an evangelist chosen by the conference for one year?" The answer was favorable and J. M. R. Weaver was elected for one year. Conference 1897, page 81 (3).

A letter was read requesting conference to send delegates to a general conference to be held at Elida, Ohio, Nov. 11, 1897, to consider the matter of establishing a General Conference. The conference decided to send the three bishops, A. Schiffler, B. F. Hamilton, and S. C. Miller with other brethren to the General Conference. Conference 1897, page 83.

"The minutes of the Sunday school conference were heartily approved and endorsed by the conference." Conference 1897, page 83.

Among the questions for the 1898 conference was, "Do missions pay?" Resolved "That missions pay largely and that this conference unitedly encourages all evangelical mission work with our means, talents, and prayers." Page 89.

In the 1893 conference, J. M. R. Weaver gave the following report of his work as conference evangelist. Days from home evangelizing 94. Sermons preached away from home 78. Sermons preached at home 8. Meetings in private homes 78. Public and private confessions 25. Expended \$36.29. Page 90.

In the 1904 conference T. M. Erb and D. G. Lapp were chosen to investigate the advisability of starting a mission in Kansas City. Page 127.

The 1905 conference approved the movement of establishing a Sanitarium near La Junta, Colorado. Page 134.

The conference of 1907 took action requesting the Mennonite Board of Education to take steps to establish a school "in which Bible work is made a specialty somewhere in the west." Page 140. As a result of this action Hesston College and Bible school was established in 1908-09.

The conference of 1912 appointed D. S. Weaver and L. O. King to meet with persons from other interested conferences to consider establishing a home for the homeless. Out of this interest the Kansas City Children's Home was established. Page 173.

Beginning, it seems, with only a few churches in central Kansas in 1876 and adding to the Kansas churches the church in Adams Co., Nebr., the conference continued to grow by adding churches in other states. By 1895 mention is made of the churches in Oklahoma. In 1900 churches

in Idaho and Oregon were added. In 1904 Colorado was added, in 1908 the congregation at Plainview, Texas, and in 1911 the congregation at Las Vegas, N. Mex. The conference of 1905 which was held in Oregon, decided to divide the conference, making the Rocky Mountains the dividing line. Page 130. From the small beginning of five ordained men in 1876, by 1892 names are given of three bishops, twelve ministers and five deacons who attended conference, (page 43), and in 1908 seven bishops, twenty-one ministers and eight deacons. Pages 150, 151. In the year 1920, the closing year, six bishops, twenty-two ministers and nine deacons were present of whom eight were visitors from other conferences. The first indication of lay membership is recorded at the spring conference of 1890. Page 50. "About fifty partook of the emblems of the broken body and shed blood of our blessed Saviour." The conference of 1896 reports that there were 65 members added during the year. Page 71. The report-

ed members the next year 1897 was 483. Page 79. By 1909 the reported membership had increased to 949. Page 151.

The last session of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference was held Aug. 2-4, 1920, at the Spring Valley Church, near Canton, Kansas, the same congregation where the first session had been held. D. H. Bender served as moderator and C. D. Yoder, son-in-law of R. J. Heatwole the first secretary, served as secretary. Since the (old) Mennonite conferences west of the Mississippi overlapped, and since it was more difficult to travel north and south than east and west, each conference chose several brethren who met with the representatives of the other conferences and together they effected a redistricting of the conferences. In 1921 the new conferences met and most of the congregations that had formerly been in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference were now in the Missouri-Kansas, later known as the South Central Conference.

Hutchinson, Kansas

The Travel Notes of Jacob B. Mensch

Jacob B. Mensch, 1835-1912, was ordained a minister in the Franconia Mennonite Conference on June 10, 1867. He left many records, diaries, letters, and conference minutes referring to his church work. From 1880 to 1907 he kept minutes of the Franconia Conference meetings. These are of great value as there were no official minutes before 1907 and this set is the only known unofficial record of those years.

Among his records were travel notes. The *Mennonite Historical Bulletin* of January, 1947, carried the notes for his travels in 1868, 1869, 1871, 1872, and 1873, during which time he made trips to Mennonite churches in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Ohio. The July, 1947, *Bulletin* completed the account of his Ohio trip.

Below are the notes of Mensch's western trip of 1889, which took him and Jacob Wismer into Mennonite communities in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. Of special interest in the diary entries of this trip are the references to the many sermons he preached in the churches of the Russian Mennonite settlements of Kansas, Nebraska, and Dakota. His final major trip recorded in his travel notes took him into western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Canada in 1897, which will be presented later. Mensch's travel notes are characterized by a sparsity of capital letters and periods. Enough of these and other punctuation marks have been added by the editor to insure clarity, and in several instances words have been added to convey the thought correctly.—M. G.

1889

Jacob B. Mensch and preacher Henry

Wismer went on a journey to the west on the 9th of September 1889 came to Youngstown in Ohio between day and night on the 11th. We passed through Indiana state; arrived in Chicago at noon at Dearborn Station, and left Chicago at 5:20 P.M. for Kansas City. Arrived at Newton at 9 o'clock P.M. There was preacher David Weaver's son with a 2 horse team to take us to Pennsylvania meeting house in Harvey Co., Kans. There was preacher Metzler and Loux from Indiana state and the preacher David Weaver that belongs to this church and his deacon Jacob Erb and David Zuck. He is a bishop among the Amish church. Over night we were at preacher David Weaver's and stayed with him till noon. In the afternoon Weaver took us to Jacob Burger. His wife is Weaver's daughter. From there to Grater in Newton. Grater's wife is a daughter of old preacher (Holtema) from Juniata Co., Pa. From there to David Horst; his wife is preacher Weaver's daughter. From there to Daniel Coppes; his wife is preacher Loux's daughter. He was a preacher among the New Mennonite or Oberholzer's church in Bucks Co., Pa. Over night we were at Deacon Jacob Erb's, and his wife is daughter of preacher John Hess of Lan. Co., Pa. From there to Abraham Hess, son of preacher John Hess of Lan. Co., Pa. From there to preacher David Weaver, over night here. We met preacher Michael Rohrer. His age is 69 years. Deacon Jacob Erb came with a 2 horse team to Weaver's in the morning of the 15th and took us to Spring Valley meeting house in McPherson Co., Kans. There we had a meeting, J. Mensch's

text Matt. 18. Preacher Daniel Brundage Bishop, age 78 years; his colabourer is John Henry Loux. We were at Bishop Daniel Brundage's. From there to over supper at Jacob Landis. In the evening in the meeting at Spring Valley meeting house there was preacher Noah Metzler, age 35 years, and preacher Jonas Loux, 35; they are from Indiana. They had for their text I John 4:16. Overnight we were at David K. Weaver's. 16th in the forenoon David H. Weaver brought us to John Ratzloff; took dinner with him. From there we had meeting at the meeting house (Canton) close at Ratzloff. Jacob Mensch's text John 14:1-6. Overnight we were at Ratzloff again; 17th Ratzloff and his wife took us to preacher Tobias Unruh over dinner in McPherson Co., Kans. There we had an hour of advocacy. Tobias Unruh, preacher, took us to preacher Peter Balzer over night. They have an Indian boy 7 years old. 18th over dinner Henry Richert, 58; from there we went to Peter Unruh, 67 years. He is the father-in-law of preacher Richert. From there we went back to Richert's over supper. In the evening we had meeting in the Alexanderwohl meeting house in McPherson Co., Kans. Henry Wismer's text Matt. 5:14, 15, 16. Russian preachers present were Bishop Jacob Buller, Henry Richert, Peter Voth, Peter Unruh, Jacob Richert, Henry Gätz, Henry Banman, Peter Pankratz, Peter Balzer, and Deacons John Voth and Henry Richert brought us to preacher David Weaver's. There we took our dinner in the afternoon. We were at Frank Horst's in the evening. We had a meeting at the Pennsylvania meeting house in Harvey Co., Kans. J. Mensch's text Matt. 16:26. Overnight at Weaver's again. 20th Weaver took us to Newton. There we took the cars to Peabody. There we took our baggage to A. H. Kauffman; there we met John Herschinger's son. He took us home to his parent's over dinner. Over night we were at A. H. Kauffman. 21st, Kauffman went with us to Samuel Cacklitz and over dinner at Bishop Benjamin J. Hamilton, 64 years. From there to Bigel, from there to John Newcomer's over supper. In the evening we had a meeting at Peabody meeting house in Marion Co., Kans. J. B. Mensch's text Romans 12:12. The preachers belonging to this church are Bishop Benjamin J. Hamilton; Caleb Weine, 40 years, Jacob Weine; Deacon, Emanuel Weaver. Over dinner at Caleb Weine, from there to Henry Pledger. He took us to Deacon Emanuel Weaver, 54 years. He is lame. There we took supper. In the night at 11 o'clock we took the car at Peabody to Kansas City, came to Kansas City at 7 o'clock in the morning of the 23rd. Left Kansas City at 9:40; arrived at Olathe at 11 o'clock. Over dinner at John Z. Martin. At Olathe Samuel Ernst took us around. In the evening we had a meeting at Hayes school house. Wismer's text John 15:14. They have no preacher; they have about

8 members. Over night at Eleaser Ernst. 24th we went to Olathe and took the cars to Garden City, Cass Co., Missouri. There we arrived at 1 o'clock. We went with Joseph Garber and took our supper there in the evening. We had a meeting in a school house. Mensch's text John 3:16. There was preacher Peter Zimmerman. He belongs to the Amish Church. Over night we were at Deacon Elias Kauffman. 25th we had a meeting at Bethel meeting house in Cass Co., Missouri. Wismer's Text I Peter 2:11. They have no preacher there. They have a deacon there by the name of Elias Kauffman. Over dinner we were at John Zuck. At 2 o'clock we took the car at Garden City to Olathe. There we arrived at 4:30 and from there to Elias Wanner over supper. Over night at Samuel Ernst, age 64, in Johnson Co., Kans. 26th we left Olathe at 7 o'clock, arrived at 8:50 in Kansas City. There we were in a street car that was drawn with steam where it was as high as the houses at some places. The rope took the street cars up a hill and down again. The city is hilly at some places. Left Kansas City at 11 o'clock, arrived at St. Joseph at 2:50 P.M. In there (Missouri) we were on a street car that was driven by Electricity. Took the cars at St. Joseph at 7 o'clock P.M. Arrived in Hamlin, Brown Co., Kans., at 10 o'clock in the evening. Slept at the tavern. 27th in the morning we went to Christian Holteman for breakfast. He is preacher among the River Brethren. He brought us to James Price in Brown Co., Kans. There we had a meeting in the evening. J. Mensch's text Luke 12:32. Over night stayed at Price. 28th Price took us 16 miles to Edwin Price, his son. She is Daniel Nice's daughter of Franconia. There we took our dinner in Nemaha Co., Kans. There we had a meeting in the evening. Wismer's text Ephesians 4:1-3. Over night we were at Abraham Moyer. His wife is Daniel Nice's daughter of Franconia. They have no preacher in this vicinity. Sept. 29 we had a meeting at Abraham Moyer. He is from Franconia. Text Matt. 21:1-6. J. Mensch over dinner at Frank Bernd; over supper at Lincoln Price; over night at Michael Alderfer in Nemaha Co., Kans. Sept. 30 in the morning at Abraham Moyer's, he brought us 7 miles to Sebetha. There we took the car at 12 o'clock to Pawnee, arrived at 2:30, left Pawnee at 3 o'clock to Waymore. There we took the street car 2 miles to Blue Spring and from there we went 3 miles to Daniel Yoder, son of preacher Henry Yoder. He lives with him but he was not at home. We went to another son of his. On the 1st of October we took the car at Blue Spring to Beatrice. There we went to Garhart Wiebe. He went with us to preacher Henry Zimmerman 57, in Beatrice in Gage County, Nebraska. His father-in-law lives with him. He is a

preacher Andreas Penner. He is 78 (71) years old. There we took dinner. Preacher Henry Zimmerman took us to Bishop Gerhart Penner and John Penner. He is one of those that have been in Asia. He is a preacher and school teacher. We also stopped at preacher Zimmerman's son and by another man by the name of Penner and over night at Preacher Zimmerman again. 2nd went to John von Steen over dinner. We were at Cornelius Jansen, 67 years, at Beatrice. He took us 10 miles to preacher John Jansen. He is one of the men that went to Asia. There we met preacher Sutterman of Russia. He lives 15 miles south of Newton, Kans. At preacher John Jansen in Jefferson Co., Nebraska, we met John Jansen son of Cornelius Jansen, of Beatrice. He took us 10 miles to his house and 3 miles to preacher Wilhelm Thiessen, Jefferson Co., Nebr. John Jansen and his brother have 4,000 acres of land, raised 40,000 bushel of corn, 21,000 bushel wheat, 2,400 ton of hay, have 250 head of steer, feeding 2,400 head of sheep. They ran 15 mowing machine. They saddle a mule and tie him on a post if their stock break out to go after them over the prairie. They also hitch a horse in the wagon in the morning to go away or to have their men at work. He took us over a large part of his plantation. They were sowing wheat. They sowed about 700 acres of wheat. Over night were at preacher Wilhelm Thiessen. His colabourer Jacob Thiessen. They held it with Isaac Peters. Wilhelm Thiessen took us to Fairbury in Jefferson County, Nebraska; took the car at Fairbury at 4:50 P.M. arrived at Hasting in Adams Co., Nebr., at 8 o'clock in the evening. Stayed overnight in Hasting at Ridlez boarding house. Oct. 4th we got a team out of the livery stable; paid \$3.00 to bring us 16 miles to Roseland meeting house in Adams Co., Nebraska. There was a conference there. We met Bishop Henry Yoder, Albrecht Schiffler, preacher Andrew Good from Iowa, preacher Jonas Nice. Over dinner at Daniel Burkhardt and in the afternoon met again in the Roseland meeting house. Bishop Henry Yoder took the lead in the conference. Over supper I was at John Seith; from there to Levi Ebersole and in the evening we had at Roseland meeting house meeting. Mensch's text, John 14:1-6. Over night at Deacon Samuel Lapp. 5th, Lapp took us to John Han-? From there to Benjamin Ebersole and over dinner to Jacob Martin. His father, Samuel Martin, lives with him; his age 83. From there we went to the meeting. Mensch's text Ephesians 4, last verse. Over supper at Henry Ruth, over night at Albrecht Schiffler, Bishop age 44 y. 6th we were at the communion of the Lord's supper at Roseland meeting house in Adams Co., Nebraska. Over dinner at Jonas Nice, 33 y. From there to the meeting at Roseland meeting house.

Henry Wismer's text Luke 24:28, 29. Overnight at John Nunamaker; his wife is preacher Henry Nice's daughter from Illinois. He took us to (7th) Emanuel Lapp; he is sick. From there took us to Samuel Lapp, to Jacob Schneider, from there to Samuel Gell, and Benjamin Shenk over dinner. From there to Jacob Ebersole over supper and over night to Samuel Lapp. 8th Samuel Lapp took us to Frank Stauffer, from there to Juniata to Lapp's daughter, from there to Hasting, County seat of Adams Co., Nebr. There we took the car to Anderson. Samuel Lapp and wife and — went with us. Left Hasting at 3:30, arrived at 5 o'clock. Over night at preacher Isaac Peters, 63, York Co., Nebr. 9th Isaac Peters took us to preacher Cornelius Wall. From there to 2 old Russian sisters. From there John Beer, from there to Henderson; there we took the car at 4:30 to Octavia, Butler Co., Nebr.; arrived at 7:30 at Octavia. Went to Jacob H. Ruth. He lives half a mile from Octavia. There we were over night. 10th we went to Joseph B. Detvieler. He came from Bucks Co., Pa. From there to Samuel Ruth over supper. In the evening we had meeting in a school house or church at Octavia. J. Mensch's text II Pet. 1:19. Over night at Jacob Ruth. 11th took the car at Octavia. At 8:30 o'clock in the morning passed the Flat river before we came to Fremont. Came to Omaha at 10 o'clock, took the street car to Douglas St. There we took the Electricity car and passed over the Missouri river to Council Bluffs, a distance of 4 mile. That is in Iowa. Took the cars at Council Bluffs at 9:40, came to Manilla at 12 o'clock in the night. Manilla is in Iowa. Stayed at Manilla till in the morning at 4:4-. Then we took the car that is on the 12 Oct., and came to Sioux City at 8 o'clock. Sioux City is on the Missouri river and is in Iowa. Passed Sioux river. Sioux river is the line between Iowa and Dakota. Took another car at Elk point; from there to Canton; from there to Marion Junction Turner County, Dakota; from there 7 miles north west to a preacher Charles Schartner. His brother Frederick Schartner came there and were there together. In the spring on the second of April they had a great prairie fire so that the people had a great loss. Houses, cattle, horses burned; an old woman burned. Many people suffered through the smoke and dust that the wind took from the earth. They had also a cyclone that took people in the air and a man was torn in pieces so that he had to be wrapped in a cloth. It took a team of oxen in the air and carried it a distance away and were killed. We see and hear in Dakota wonderful things and a land and country that I never had seen before. All what I have against Dakota is this the winter is too long.

(Continued in July)

